

Rhode Island Diploma System

Procedures for Evaluating and Approval of Other RIDE-Approved Tests for the State Assessment Graduation Requirement

L-6-3.3(b) If after retaking the state assessment, a student does not meet the required level of achievement or make progress toward proficiency, the student may demonstrate graduation readiness through successful completion of a Board of Education-approved alternative assessment.

Introduction

Beginning with the class of 2014, the Board of Education designated performance at the *Partially Proficient* level or higher on the grade 11 New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Reading and Mathematics tests as the minimum level of student achievement necessary to meet the state assessment requirement for graduation. Because professional standards and legal precedent have established that when a state assessment is used as part of a conjunctive system¹ of graduation requirements it is necessary to provide students with multiple opportunities to meet that requirement, the Secondary Regulations outline a sequential series of opportunities that includes retaking the state assessment as well as meeting the requirement through performance on other external, standardized measures of student achievement.

The intent of the other approved tests option is to allow students additional opportunities to provide evidence from an external, standardized assessment that they have met or exceeded the assessment expectation required to earn a high school diploma. It is NOT assumed that the other approved tests provide information or scores that are directly interchangeable with the state assessments. In other words, the listed other approved tests are NOT intended to be NECAP equivalent tests. Additionally, the other approved tests and their associated acceptable scores cannot be compared directly to each other. A key criterion in the selection of other approved tests and the determination of minimum acceptable scores on those tests is the extent to which the approved test enables students to demonstrate college and career readiness.

Criteria for approving RIDE Other-approved tests

The key aspect that distinguishes the state assessment component of the student graduation requirements from the coursework and presentation of portfolio or exhibition work components is that the state assessments are **external, standardized indicators of student achievement**. As such, they provide information necessary to ensure that each student receiving a diploma throughout the state has acquired comparable necessary literacy and numeracy skills. Assessments approved as other approved tests for meeting the state assessment component of the student graduation requirements, therefore, at a minimum must be external and standardized indicators of student achievement.

External

The three factors that are considered in determining that a test is external are its development, scoring, and administration. For a test to be considered external each of these aspects of the assessment must be under the control of an agency outside of the local teacher, school, or LEA.

¹ RI requires, at a minimum, 20 courses and two performance assessments and state assessments in reading and math to be used in determining a student's eligibility for earning a diploma.

Administration may be the most ambiguous of the three factors. The external nature of a test administration refers more to the specifications and control of the administration conditions than to the location in which the test is administered or to the person administering the test. The state assessments and college admissions tests such as the SAT or ACT, for example, may be administered in local school buildings by local teachers and school administrators. The test administration conditions for those administrations, however, are highly specified and determined by an agency outside of the local school or LEA. In addition, there is an expectation that the local administrators will closely monitor and certify that the external administration conditions have been followed.

Standardized

The three factors that are considered in determining that a test is standardized are content, scoring, and administration conditions. For a test to be considered standardized each of these factors must be well documented.

Other Required Factors

In addition to the determination that the test is external and standardized, the following required factors will be evaluated in determining whether a test can be approved as a RIDE-approved test:

- There is documentation to support the technical quality of the test, particularly with regard to individual student scores.
- The test must produce separate scores in reading and mathematics.
- The test must be designed for administration following the completion of tenth grade. (This does not mean that the test cannot be administered to students in the tenth grade or earlier grades.)

Additional Considerations

Tests that meet the required conditions specified above will be further evaluated to determine the extent to which they meet the following additional considerations:

- The test is widely used and commonly used for postsecondary purposes such as college admissions, college placement, or career placement.
- The test is used primarily for summative purposes (i.e., it is not routinely used as a formative or interim assessment)
- Information and/or data are available to determine an appropriate passing score on the test.
- It is possible to establish a relationship between the content of the test and the current state content standards for graduation

Schedule

RIDE will provide an updated list of other approved tests and the associated minimum acceptable scores on those tests prior to the beginning of school each year, the current release of the list can be found here: <http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Diploma-System/Testing-Alternatives.pdf>.

LEAs may propose tests to be considered for inclusion on the list of other approved tests. All tests properly submitted by the LEA by April 1 will be considered for inclusion on the updated list to be published at the beginning of the school year.

A committee of staff from the RIDE offices of Assessment and Multiple Pathways will evaluate proposed tests against the criteria listed above and develop a list of recommended tests. A minimum acceptable score will be determined for each of the recommended tests. A report containing the committee's recommendations will be submitted to the Commissioner for review and approval. The report will include a list of all proposed tests and identify reason(s) for which tests were not approved. RIDE will release the report with the updated list of other approved tests.

Revised: September 2013

Additions to the list of other approved tests will go into effect immediately and apply to all graduating classes beginning with the graduating class of 2014.

Any changes to the list of other approved tests such as the removal of a test from the list or a change in the minimum acceptable score on a test will not impact students for whom the RIDE approved test scores have already been submitted and approved by the LEA in accordance with the sequencing of testing alternatives specified by RIDE.

Procedure for LEA to Submit Potential Tests for Inclusion as a RIDE-approved Test

LEA may propose tests to be considered for inclusion on the list of RIDE-approved tests to meet the state assessment requirement for high school graduation. The superintendent must submit the following information to RIDE by April 1:

- Name of the test
 - Full name of the test, including the publisher, version number or publication date
 - If applicable, names of particular subtests to be considered for the graduation requirement
- Brief description of the intended purpose and use of the test
 - When and how the test is administered and scored
 - Who takes the test
 - How the results are used and by whom
- Brief description of the current use of the test within the LEA
 - How long the test has been used
 - Who is tested within the LEA (which students, how many students)
 - When students commonly take the test (grade level, time of year)
 - How students have performed on the test

Proposals for tests to be considered as RIDE-approved tests must be submitted to RIDE through the LEA. Requests from individuals, schools, or other agencies will not be considered. LEAs are responsible for the implementation and management of the diploma system. Therefore, LEAs are the appropriate authority for proposing tests to RIDE for inclusion on the list of RIDE-approved tests.

Procedures for determining the minimum acceptable score to meet the state assessment requirement

After a test has been determined to meet the criteria for approval as one of the other approved tests, RIDE will review applicable evidence to determine an appropriate minimum acceptable score on the assessment. When available, information will be evaluated in the following order to determine the score:

- Review existing cut scores established for specific purposes such as:
 - College course placement, including use by local colleges
 - Established college-and-career readiness benchmarks developed by the test publisher
- Review of external studies conducted on tests and cut scores used for postsecondary purposes
- An analysis of the relationship with state assessment scores, if possible.
 - This requires a significant number of students to complete both tests and for scores to be available for analysis
 - Analyses will be conducted to determine the score at which there is high likelihood that student performance meets the level of proficiency required to meet the state assessment requirement for graduation.

RIDE-approved Test Review Submission Form

Complete and submit this form to Stacy Mello: email stacy.mello@ride.ri.gov or fax (401) 222-4979 (attention Stacy Mello, subject – RIDE-approved Test Review) prior to **April 1**. Upon receipt, RIDE will send an acknowledgement of receipt notice to the LEA. Once the review is completed, the LEA responsible for submitting the test for consideration will be notified of the results of the review. All tests to be reviewed must be submitted by an LEA, requests from individuals, schools, or other agencies will not be considered. If the test is approved as a RIDE-approved test, it will be published as part of the other RIDE-approved test list prior to September 1 of each school year.

Please review “Procedures for Evaluating and Approval of Other RIDE-Approved Tests for the State Assessment Graduation Requirement” at www.ride.ri.gov for additional information and descriptions of appropriate tests. For questions regarding this process, please contact Cali Cornell at cali.cornell@ride.ri.gov.

LEA submitting test for review		
LEA contact Information (email & phone)		
Name of Test		
	Publisher	
	Version (date published)	
	Subtests	
Purpose/use of test (current use)		
	When is test administered? (grade level and time of year)	
	How is test scored? (how and by whom)	
	How are results used? (for what purpose, by whom)	
Brief description of LEA use of test		
	How long has the test been used by the LEA?	
	For which population of students is test administered?	
	What is typical performance of students on this test?	
Additional details for reviewer		
Signature (Superintendent/Director of LEA)		DATE